The Detailed Feasibility Report for the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 7584.51 crore (3rd quarter 2002 price level) has been prepared. The NTPC has initiated the process of International Competitive Bidding for supply of Liquified Natural Gas/Gas for Kayamkulam.

Hike in power tariff

†366. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power tariff has been increased by the Electricity Boards in the various States of the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the names of these State Electricity Boards or institutions; and

(c) the percentage of the increase in power tariff for the consumers in each of the State separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hike in domestic electricity rates

367. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to increase domestic electricity rates for various categories of consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that introduction of power reforms has made no impact on the distribution of power and if so, corrective steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Under the Electricity Act, 2003 the tariff of power for various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No, Sir. Consequent on introduction of reforms improvements have been reported in terms of meeting, billing and collection efficiency, transparency in the system of tariff fixation, trend towards rationalization of tariff etc. During the financial year 2002-03, three States *viz.,* Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana have shown cash loss reduction and were eligible for incentives under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP).

Conference of State Power Ministers

368. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Power Ministers' conference was held in June to discuss the power situation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Centre has urged States to meet power generation targets;

(c) whether any target has been fixed in the Tenth Plan for achieving power targets;

(d) if so, how much has so far been achieved;

(e) whether number of projects have not been undertaken so far;

(f) if so, what are the main reasons:

(g) the States where these projects have not been undertaken; and

(h) what is the help and assistance the Centre has agreed to provide to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The centre has impressed upon the States that they should take up the work on all feasible Tenth Plan power projects within next few months so that the Tenth Plan targets could be met.

(c) and (d) A capacity addition target of 41,110 MW (25417 MW-Thermal, 14393 MW-Hydro & 1300 MW-Nuclear) has been set for 10th